

Parks, Libraries & Cultural Activities Committee Meeting Summary
Monday, May 14, 2007
3:05 p.m.
Third Floor, City Hall

Present: **Chair: CM Stuckel**

Members: CW Welch, CM Engel (3:25 pm), CM Peden

Absent: CW Green, CW Ward-Pugh and CM King

Special Items for Discussion: Mike Heitz – The City of Parks initiative.

CM Stuckel began the meeting by announcing the members that were present. A quorum was established.

Mike Heitz, Director of Metro Parks, gave a slide presentation and discussed the following:

- More than 100 years ago, landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted laid out a vision for what would become the start of Louisville's public park system.
- His vision evolved into what is today a nationally-recognized network of urban green spaces linked together by tree-lined parkways
- City leaders saw then, access to parks is key to a city's vibrancy and quality of life, offering:
 - ✓ Opportunities for interaction with nature
 - ✓ Green space that enhances commercial and residential development
 - ✓ Quality neighborhoods that have developed around parks
 - ✓ Economic development potential
- In 1990 a significant community planning effort took place to determine what Louisville should look like by the year of 2020 – Cornerstone 2020 ([attachment](#))
 - ✓ Progress was made when City and County merged
 - ✓ City of Parks goals
 - ✓ Adding thousands of acres of new park land
- Creating a 100-mile paved path that would encircle our community, connecting parks, neighborhoods and workplaces
 - ✓ Improving existing 123 parks
 - ✓ Fairmount Falls
 - ✓ 40-foot waterfall and eight surrounding acres were purchased by Metro Parks with state funds
 - ✓ 114 acres of adjacent land (valued at \$1.4 Million) donated by Brown, Noltemeyer & Mattingly
 - ✓ Destination for hikers, with at least three waterfalls, just a few minutes from the Gene Snyder Freeway and 20 minute drive from downtown
- Corridors for Land Acquisition – primarily focused in three corridors
 - ✓ The Floyds Fork Corridor
 - ✓ Jefferson Memorial Forest
 - ✓ The Southwest portion of the community
- Developing a new system of parks that equals at least 3,000 acres
 - ✓ Floyds Fork corridor, between Shelbyville Road and Bardstown Road
 - ✓ A multi-use path will connect several active parks
- Aerial –Oesterritter Property
 - ✓ 94-acre sod farm purchased by Metro Parks last year along I-64
 - ✓ 100-acre Floyds Fork Park near Taylorsville Road
 - ✓ Features a large soccer complex

- ✓ In partnership with CM Benson, a fence has been added to protect the fields from off-road vehicles
- The Tyler-Schooling Property, King Property and Floyds Fork Park property together is larger than Cherokee Park
- Jefferson Memorial Forest
 - ✓ Has grown 500 acres since merger in 2003
 - ✓ With the leadership of CW Welch a comprehensive master plan is about to be developed for the Forest
- Southwest Louisville Metro
 - ✓ Riverview Parks has been expanded from 16 to 87 acres
 - ✓ Riverside, Farnsley-Moremen Landing has been expanded.
- Metro Loop Corridors
 - ✓ The third major component of City of Parks is the 100-mile Metro Loop path
- Over the past four years 181 capital improvements
 - ✓ Nearly \$24 million improvements
 - ✓ 88 Capital projects underway
- Iroquois – Playground
 - ✓ Accessible to children with disabilities
 - ✓ The playground will be located along the New Cut Road side of the park, in the Sunny Hill area behind the Iroquois Amphitheater
 - ✓ \$1.6 million dollar project
 - ✓ Metro Government investing \$671,000, Olmsted Parks Conservancy wrote a check for the other \$872,000 and the Dream Foundation pledged \$500,000.
- Iroquois Landscaping
 - ✓ \$40,000 landscaping project near the Iroquois Amphitheater
- New Trail
 - ✓ A volunteer project to replace the worn-out “switchback trail” to the Northern Overlook
 - ✓ Volunteers from Saints Mary and Elizabeth Hospital, the Mayor’s, Adopt-A-Park, partner for Iroquois Park are re-opening the historic Corbly Path alignment
- Uppill Road
 - ✓ Section of Uppill Road has washed out
 - ✓ \$160,000 in capital funds, partnered with Public Works & Assets to complete repairs late this summer
- Northern Overlook
 - ✓ The Forestry crews spent time hand-pruning and selectively removing trees and growth last year
- Four key funding sources
 - ✓ Olmsted Parks Conservancy
 - ✓ 21st Century Parks – Dan and David Jones
 - ✓ The Louisville Metro Parks Foundation
 - ✓ Public Funding

Chairman Stuckel made a motion to adjourn, without objection.

***NOTE: Items sent to the Consent Calendar or Old Business will be heard before the full Council at the May 31, 2007 Metro Council Meeting.**

Without objection the meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

MM